LWN LONDON WEEKLY NEWS GROUP

Chelsea NEWS

First established 1857 PICK UP A FREE COPY Thursday, December 18th 2014

Chloe needs £100,000 by January for life-saving cancer treatment

See page 8 for how you can help

INSIDE

A Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park

Council leader writes for the London Weekly News

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Royal borough leading clampdown on slavery

APEAL TO PUBLIC TO HELP SAVE A SLAVE

SLAVE-OWNERS in Kensington and Chelsea have been warned that they now face going to prison for life.

The new no-nonsense warning came at the end of a two-year anti-slavery pilot project in the royal borough which has helped the Government launch a war on slavers.

The warning was delivered by Home Office Minister Karen Bradley at a City Hall conference to assess the findings of the 24-month collaboration between Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council and the Metropolitan Police.

As a result of the Kensington and Chelsea pilot scheme, a 'toolkit' of how to fight slavery will be shared with police and authorities in the UK and across Europe.

It coincides with the launch of a Government-driven neighbourhood watch appeal for residents of the royal borough to report suspicions of slavery seen around them.

The Home Office believes that there are currently 10,000-13,000 people living in slavery in the UK – and many of them are suspected of being trapped in servitude in central London.

● By LWN reporter **GEOFF BAKER**
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Modern slavery can take many forms, including prostitution and unpaid servants kept under lock and key by rich foreigners.For two years Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council has been working with the Metropolitan Police and the Kensington-based charity Rahab on a project to fight slavery by increasing awareness of the signs of it and determining how to help suspected slaves.

As a result, more than 300 suspected slaves in Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster have been rescued and offered support. There have been 27 arrests and convicted slave-owners have received sentences totalling 35 years.

Modern Slavery Bill

But now the Government is getting tough and the Minister told the conference of the council-led European Communities Against Trafficking project that slave-owners will now face spending the rest of their lives behind bars.

"This summer the Government introduced a Modern Slavery Bill into Parliament, the first of its kind in Europe. It will become an Act of Parliament next Spring. It sends a strong message, that the UK will not tolerate this horrific abuse," she said.

"It clarifies modern slavery offences and brings them into one coherent piece of legislation under which criminals will receive up to life imprisonment."

Kensington and Chelsea Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Cllr Joanna Gardner, said: "The scourge of human trafficking is something we must do all we can to stop, as it is going on in our community and takes many forms from slavery to prostitution."

All 400 Kensington and Chelsea police have now been trained on how to spot a slave. But the Home Office is also appealing for residents to join the war on slavery and report those they suspect of keeping slaves.

■ TURN TO PAGE 3

Market trader arrested

A MARKET trader from Portobello Road was arrested for allegedly selling counterfeit goods following an investigation by Royal Borough Trading Standards officers.

The arrest was the result of joint operation by Trading Standards officers and the new Kensington and Chelsea Community Police Team.

The trader was taken to Notting Hill Police Station whilst further checks were carried out, and she was charged with six offences under the Trade Marks Act 1994 and is due to appear in court later this month.

Commenting on the arrest Councillor Tim Ahern, Cabinet Member for Environmental Health, said: "This is an excellent example of the co-operation between the Council and police, which will be built on in the coming months and years. It sends out a clear message that we will take action if traders are caught persistently abusing shoppers."

■ **SPREADING SOME CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: Ana Quinapanta pulls a cracker with guest John Mendis as Sion-Manning RC Girls' School hosts a festive party for some of the senior citizens around their area**

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS AND ADVERTISERS.
WE WILL BE BACK ON JANUARY 8TH 2015

Thumbs up from Boris for the London Weekly News

THE Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has keenly hailed the return of Tindle weekly newspapers to central London, calling it "fantastic".

The Mayor, a champion of free enterprise, has praised Sir Ray Tindle's move to buck the trend of newspapers closing by launching four new weeklies - The Kensington News, The Westminster & Pimlico News, The Chelsea News and The London Weekly News.

Wishing the titles every success, The Mayor warmly welcomed the new news for London for the New Year.

"Local newspapers have a proud tradition as a vital source of news and information and, in a climate where sadly many local papers have been forced to fold, it is fantastic to see Tindle Newspapers launching four brand new titles in the capital," said the Mayor.

"As well as being home to some of the world's best museums, galleries, theatres, restaurants and shops, the boroughs of Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea offer a plethora of great stories about their vibrant local communities, which these new titles will shine a light on.

" I wish them every success.'

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CHAIRMAN
Sir Ray Tindle
VICE-CHAIRMAN
Wendy Craig

JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS
Karen Sheppard
0208 768 4903
Philip Evans (Editor)
07796 951991

Editorial Email:
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk
News Editor Geoff Baker 07864 992274
Sport - Tony MacDonald 07711 160427

Advertising
Trades/
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Apprenticeship Scheme

WESTMINSTER City Council is committed to helping young people into employment and is very proud of the apprentices on its Apprenticeship Scheme. It has been a huge success with positive feedback from both apprentices and line managers.

Apprenticeships are an excellent way of gaining qualifications, work based skills and experience with all apprentices provided with relevant workplace placements and training from a recognised OFSTED provider.

The council's current apprenticeship programme is delivered in partnership with the London Apprenticeship Company with opportunities at the council advertised on their website.

Kensington & Chelsea

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parking@rbkc.gov.uk
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BELGRAVIA'S CHRISTMAS KINGDOM

THE timeless settings of Belgravia on Grosvenor's London estate is once again hosting a selection of seasonal treats on Elizabeth Street, Motcomb Street and Pimlico Road this Christmas.

Alongside the annual Christmas markets, a special appearance from Father Christmas and sleigh rides also features in this year's Christmas in Belgravia, inviting residents and visitors alike to sample an array of festive delights.

Motcomb Street invites shoppers to take a stroll between its specialist shops and salons, offering an array of gift ideas from their chocolatiers to high-fashion boutiques or to take the time to stop and taste the wonders of their Michelin-starred restaurants.

With its beautiful bijou cobbled street, tucked away behind bustling Knightsbridge and Sloane Street, its vibrant and timeless atmosphere is the perfect place for gift shopping where the Holland Park Opera Singers have been be performing throughout the evenings.

Located in the heart of Belgravia, the grand Belgrave Square Gardens became a wonderful Christmas kingdom for all the family to enjoy.

The event included sleigh rides, a cinema screening of the film *Frozen* presented by the Nomad Cinema, Christmas crafts, a fairy wish garden, petting zoo and a magical visit from Father Christmas in his grotto.

Pimlico Road, Elizabeth Street and Motcomb Street came to life as they were lit with sparkling Christmas lights, creating a magical haven in Central London.

Elizabeth Street was transformed into a winter wonderland comprising 65 stalls. From handmade woven scarves and sheep skin boots, to gold plated jewellery and fine bone porcelain china; sweet and savoury pastries and cakes to handmade cheeseboards, this year's Belgravia Christmas Sunday offered a huge variety of seasonal treats.

Father Christmas and his reindeer made an appearance alongside Dinky the Elf, stilt walkers and balloon modellers. Music was provided by the Fulham Brass Band, Eaton House School Choir, St Michael's Church Choir, St Barnabas Primary School, and St Peter's Eaton Square Church Choir.

For the first time ever, there will be a celebration of the Christmas window displays from the unique Belgravia retailers. Four judges will reveal which shops and businesses have produced the most creative, the glamorous and festive Christmas windows.

Visitors will be able to enjoy a host of treats and special offers from the many retailers across the estate

■ THANK YOU SANTA: Christmas came early for these two

■ PRINCESS Elsa from Frozen entertains children

Charity's singing bid to fight killer disease

By Jack Dixon

A WESTMINSTER charity is looking to breathe new life into a campaign to fight the UK's third biggest killer.

The 'Breathe Easy Westminster' group is one of 280 patient-led and patient-funded groups running under the British Lung Foundation (BLF) in the UK.

The group provides mutual support, information and education to Westminster residents with respiratory disease, along with their family, friends and carers.

With more than 160 registered members, the group holds regular events to bring those affected by the disease – one in five people in the UK.

And Tessa Jelen, the group's chair, says she wants to do more in the year ahead to boost the 'Breathe Easy' appeal, by launching an innovative new scheme.

The new 'Singing to Breathe' classes involve group-singing exercises, which experts say can improve the health and quality of life of people living with lung disease.

Research produced by scientists at Canterbury Christchurch University in Kent has revealed that group singing can lead to "encouraging improvements" in participants' lung functions.

"We have found that group singing is an innovative initiative to help people with COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease]) engage in physical and social activity to support their independence and quality of life, giving them social inclusion", said Professor Stephen Clift, director of the research project, conducted by the university's Sidney De Haan Research Centre for Arts and Health.Statistics published by a cross-party group of MPs earlier this year also reveal the shocking extent of the disease's impact across the country.

Respiratory disease now leads to the deaths of around 80,000 people per year in the UK - the nation's third biggest killer.

According to the report, treating respiratory disease sets the NHS back an estimated £4.7 billion every year - and the cost is rising.

Ms Jelen added: "At the moment we are trying to get our own 'Singing to Breathe' project off the ground. It will really help to save people from feelings of isolation and anxiety, and improve their health and wellbeing.

"When you are singing together you release lots of endorphins and everyone's heart beats synchronise. It really is the new buzz."

The 'Breathe Easy' group has recently been awarded two grants to help cover the cost of running classes and producing its quarterly newsletter for the next six months.

"There is such little support (for respiratory disease) compared with heart conditions, though next year the support for these two conditions will become linked", Ms Jelen added.

"Education is vital to increase early diagnosis, support exercises and give information such as using medication correctly.

"We are encouraging people to come to the meetings so they can learn about their condition."

The 'Breathe Easy' group meets on the third Monday of every month, between 11am and 3pm at Ada Court, 10-16 Maida Vale.

Christmas with be capital's 'busiest ever'

■ FROM PAGE ONE

Wild Weekend' - leading into an equally-frenzied Christmas craze from Monday to Wednesday.

"The West End is predicted to have its strongest Christmas in years', claims the shopping experts The Retail Bulletin.

"As Christmas Day falls on a Thursday this year, it means that retailers are likely to see a last-minute mid-week surge in shoppers as well as a strong weekend on December 20th and 21st."

"Crowds on the high street are expected to peak as late as this last weekend before Christmas," says This Is Money, the financial website of the year.

Nigel Wilson, managing director of consumer insight for Experian Marketing Services, said: "As always, there comes a point when shoppers take to the high street to pick up those last-minute items – high street retailers should expect a big increase in footfall from this weekend onwards. The last few days before Christmas will see more shoppers on the high street than online."

And there's more good news for the end of Christmas week as the experts say Boxing Day will be a knock-out for West End stores with the big-spending coming from shoppers both on foot and online.

"For the sixth consecutive year, Boxing Day 2013 was the single biggest online shopping day of the year, with Internet users making 129 million visits to retail websites,' says Experian.

"We predict that Boxing Day 2014 will continue this trend and will once again set records as the single biggest online shopping day. Strong growth of 15 per cent between 2012 and 2013 suggests that Boxing Day will be huge."

More visitors are expected in London this year than at any Christmas ever before. Experts expect the number of Christmas visitors to reflect the trend that has made the capital the busiest city on Earth, with a record 16.8 million visitors through the whole of 2013.

i2 media research Goldsmiths UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Do you want to take part in paid research at Goldsmiths University?

We at i2 media research ltd. are always looking to recruit people to take part in research to evaluate new media products and services. Right now, we're conducting a study to evaluate an application that aims to improve the TV experience for people with colour blindness.

We are looking for people who are London based and have normal colour vision OR red-green colour-blindness.

The study will last about an hour and participants will be paid £10 for their time (plus up to £10 return travel expenses, if receipts are provided).

If you would like to know more about this or other paid research, please go to our website **(http://i2mediaresearch.com/takepart/)** to register your interest.

Or call **0207 717 2201** and leave your name and contact details.

LWN NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER & PIMLICO editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Writing for the **London Weekly News** every week, London's favourite entrepreneur

Charlie Pipes Up!

The day the Prime Minister became a trainee plumber

LAST Tuesday night we won the Corporate Campaign of the Year - at the 2014 Public Affairs Awards - for our championing of the humble Apprenticeship.

It's almost the end of 2014, and it seems not that long ago that it was early January and I was talking about how hard we were going to work to push the apprenticeships agenda for the 12 months ahead. And how we worked, and pushed, and shouted, and cajoled, without fear or favour, to the very highest levels.

Our campaign went to the papers, to the colleges, to the Houses of Commons and the Lords, to Downing Street and the London Stock Exchange. But I have to say that the big push, the highlight, the crowning glory, was the four days in September, when we took the campaign, complete with apprentices James Parkinson and Ashley Mullins, and their mentor, Gary Swan, to the Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham.

This was my first ever party conference, and I have Connect Communications, who helped me with my apprenticeship campaign in 2014, to thank for walking me through, what was a strange, and at times, confusing bubble. However, new to the environment we might have been, but overawed and muted we were not.

Our two young lads, and one not so young, played a complete blinder. They met most of the cabinet, including David Cameron and George Osborne, and what they achieved in taking the issue direct to Government is huge.

Sometimes, for all sorts of reasons, it's hard to get politicans to focus and understand the real hard issues, so our strategy was to put one right in front of them.

That's what the Pimlico Plumbers' Plumbing Challenge was all about, and our lads taught the PM, hands on, how to unblock a sink. The point being, it's all very well to talk about the importance of apprenticeships at a drinks reception, but on that Monday, in Birmingham, David Cameron was the apprentice, and experienced first hand what learning a vocational skill on the job, from a skilled trades person is like.

That's why we went to Conference, and that's why we took the kitchen sink!

Grand-a-week Portugese brickies - no surprise to me...

■ I'M pretty busy right now working on getting little Chloe the £100,000 she needs for her life saving treatment in the United States, but I can't pass this story up.

We are bringing in Portugese bricklayers at £1,000 a week because there aren't enough about to do all the work. A better example of the skills shortage I'm always on about I can't think of, and one that surprises me not one iota!

This is another proverbial chicken coming home to roost after years of under training and our over enthusiastic obsession with sending everyone to university for the last couple of decades. Basically we've got a load of unemployed young people, many of whom are graduates, and nobody to lay the bricks.

This is why we need a nationally organised and funded apprenticeship scheme that guarantees an apprenticeship to any young person who wants one. This is the answer, no question, and anyone who wants to argue the point needs to explain how computers and history degrees can build houses.

Charlie Mullins

PIMLICO PLUMBERS

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■ LITTLE Chloe Balloqui, who lives in Pimlico, is looking forward to Christmas - and hoping that lots of people will buy a Pimlico Plumbers' van to help boost her fund for treatment in the USA

Pimlico firm gets behind the campaign for Chloe's life-saving trip to America

PIMLICO Plumbers' owner Charlie Mullins has thrown his weight behind the campaign to send three-year-old Chloe Balloqui to the United States for life-saving cancer treatment.

After hearing about the Balloqui family's challenge to raise £100,000 to enable Chloe to access pioneering new treatments in Michigan, Charlie has mobilised his business to support the campaign.

Chloe, from Pimlico, was diagnosed with neuroblastoma in October last year. Following nearly seven months in hospital, she has come to the end of any treatment the NHS can provide and needs to travel to the US for further treatment.

In addition to making a personal donation of £2,000, Charlie has committed to donate £1 from every job undertaken by Pimlico Plumbers up until the fundraising deadline on January 10. On average in December, the company completes around 1,500 jobs a week.

Each of the company's highly-recognisable blue and white vans will also sport a picture of Chloe, which will contain a special text number that has been set up by Pimlico Plumbers to enable members of the public to support the fundraising.

Donations can be made by texting 'PLUM89 space £' followed by an amount between £1 and £10 to 70070.

The company is also holding an auction at an event to be held at its Pimlico Heating & Plumbing Merchants on Tuesday (December 16th). Charlie is collecting auction items, which already include a 'Pimlico Plumber for the Day', worth £800, and a corporate box with hospitality at Brighton & Hove Albion FC, which has been donated by A&A Construction Group.

Charlie is not restricting his fundraising activities to London. He is aiming to contact every plumber in the UK to encourage them to donate just £1 each.

Charlie Mullins said: "I am really determined to help Chloe out and am pushing for everyone to get involved. I've made a donation and everyone across the Pimlico team, including friends and family are right behind us to ensure Chloe receives the treatment she so desperately needs.

"The Pimlico Plumbers fleet is one of the most iconic sights on the streets of London and I am sure that the beautiful photo of Chloe on side of every van will only serve to catch people's attention, get on their phones and donate."

He added: "I've decided to back date my £1 per job donation to include the last week of November, where we did 1893 jobs and I've already donated that amount through the website. December has been very busy and I wouldn't be surprised if we do more jobs as we enter 2015 and we'll keep going until the job is done!"

At the time oif going to press, the fund stood at £80,000.

◆ Launched by Charlie Mullins in 1979 with just a bag of tools and a very old van bought at auction, Pimlico Plumbers now has more than 200 professional trades people and a support team of around 50 staff serving customers across London including some of the world's most famous names including James Bond star Daniel Craig and actress Dame Helen Mirren.

The company, which has a turnover of £20 million, serves Central and Greater London and currently has more than 170 vans, trucks and motorbikes on the streets of the Capital.

Charlie is the archetypal entrepreneur having started his business from scratch and building it into a multi-million pound enterprise.

His company's iconic blue and white vans can also been seen in Spain after Charlie launched a Marbella branch of the company last year to serve both local and ex-pat customers.

Outspoken and often controversial, Charlie has starred in Channel 4's 'Secret Millionaire' and the BBC's 'Young Plumber of the Year' programmes and is a regular business commentator in the national media.

Policing correction

IN an article on December 4th we reported that the Metropolitan Police role of searching visitors to the House Of Common and House of Lords may be transferred to a private security company. This was incorrect and we are happy to report that the Metropolitan Police will continue to be responsible for armed and unarmed policing at the Palaces of Westminster. We apologise for this error.

LWN NEWS FROM KENSINGTON & CHELSEA edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Royal borough leading clampdown on slavery

SLAVE-OWNERS in Kensington and Chelsea have been warned that they now face going to prison for life.

The new no-nonsense warning came at the end of a two-year anti-slavery pilot project in the royal borough which has helped the Government launch a war on slavers.

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But now the Government is getting tough and the Minister told the conference of the council-led European Communities Against Trafficking project that slave-owners will now face spending the rest of their lives behind bars.

"This summer the Government introduced a Modern Slavery Bill into Parliament, the first of its kind in Europe. It will become an Act of Parliament next Spring. It sends a strong message, that the UK will not tolerate this horrific abuse," she said.

"It clarifies modern slavery offences and brings them into one coherent piece of legislation under which criminals will receive up to life imprisonment."

Kensington and Chelsea Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Cllr Joanna Gardner, said: "The scourge of human trafficking is something we must do all we can to stop, as it is going on in our community and takes many forms from slavery to prostitution."

All 400 Kensington and Chelsea police have now been trained on how to spot a slave. But the Home Office is also appealing for residents to join the war on slavery and report those they suspect of keeping slaves.

"We cannot do this alone," said the Minister.

"It will take a determined and focused law enforcement response, greater awareness among frontline professionals, coordinated police action internationally, close working with business, and support from communities, charities and all faiths."

The Home Office said: "One of our objectives is to improve public awareness of the signs of modern slavery. We want to encourage the public to play their part.

"Public awareness and understanding of modern slavery is low. It is crucial that the public are aware that slavery exists and have an understanding of the forms it takes if they are to recognise and report incidents."

To increase residents awareness of slavery in the royal borough and elsewhere, the Home Office has set up a slavery helpline and website.

"As the Modern Slavery and Organised Crime Minister, I am committed to tackling this blight on our society," Karen Bradley told the conference.

"Our most recent data indicates that more than 2,700 potential victims of trafficking were found across the country last year. Recent work by the Home Office estimates that there are actually between 10,000 and 13,000 victims of modern slavery in the UK.

"We are united by a common cause: to stop the extreme suffering caused by the trade in human beings, regardless of where this horrendous practice takes place.

"We know that modern slavery crushes lives, strips people of their dignity and causes untold misery and suffering – it is everywhere.

Anyone who has suspicions of slavery is being urged by the Home Office to visit the website www.modernslavery.co.uk or to report their concerns to 0800 0121 700.

St John's Church restoration is completed for Christmas

ST JOHN'S Church, situated at the busy Ladbroke Grove/Harrow Road junction, has a particularly good reason to celebrate Christmas this year.

After a huge effort and expenditure - £150,000 - the end of 2014 saw the completion of exterior restoration works.

The final touch has been the installation of lights to the clock and towers – highlighting the new stone cross above the main entrance.

All this work would not have been possible without the support of English Heritage and the Heritage of London Trust, who donated towards the cost of the cross.

The main church doors are now open every day, presenting a welcoming face to visitors and passers-by. But there is more work to be done and 2015 will see improvements to the interior, enabling St John's to offer the church for wider community use.

A community audit will also take place so that the church can respond better to the requirement for facilities within the local area. St John's already holds popular car boot sales and provides a venue for local events, such as the All Sing! Harrow Road Community Choir Concert, which took place on December 7th.

With the planned internal improvements now taking shape, 2015 looks set to be a busy year for the church.

There are numerous forthcoming Christmas events, including the Ark Franklin Primary Academy Christmas Concert and a Carols and Christingle Service. Then, on Christmas Eve, St John's will be welcoming a very special guest (with a sack full of goodies!) during the Children's Crib Service. Full details of all Christmas services can be found at www.stjohnskensalgreen.org.uk

■ **THE Reverend David Ackerman of St John's Kensal Green pictured during recent restoration works**

Pupils among the best in the country

ROYAL Borough pupils have once again achieved amongst the very best results in the country for Key Stage 2 (age 11) performance.

Results published by the Department for Education show that 85 per cent of children in Kensington and Chelsea schools achieved the expected Level 4+ in Key Stage 2 reading, writing and mathematics.

This is in line with last year's result, and is 6 per cent above the published national (state-funded) average of 79 per cent. The results rank the borough fourth in inner London and ninth nationally. Colville and St Joseph's. achieved 100 per cent for this measure.

The results for those achieving Level 5+ for reading, writing and mathematics were also impressive with 36 per cent reaching the standard, 12 per cent above the national average and ranking the borough first in inner London and second nationally.

The percentage of children in the borough making expected levels of progress in reading, writing and mathematics, reaching expected levels in grammar, punctuation Colville and St Joseph's. Colville and St Joseph's. and spelling, and achieving the exceptional Level 6 in individual subjects was also well above national figures.

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA
Kensington Town Hall
Customer Services Centre
Christmas opening hours
Tuesday 23 December: Normal working hours: 8.30am to 5pm
Wednesday 24 December (Christmas Eve): 8.30am to 2pm
Thursday 25 December (Christmas Day): closed
Friday 26 December (Boxing Day): closed
Monday 29 December: 8.30am to 4pm
Tuesday 30 December: 8.30am to 4pm
Wednesday 31 December (New Year's Eve): 8.30am to 4pm
Thursday 1 January (New Year's Day): closed
Friday 2 January: Normal working hours resume: 8.30am to 5pm

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

raising thousands of pounds for

Where's my pudding? Covent

WACKY Races had nothing on the Great Christmas Pudding Race as hundreds of people from across the country gathered to either take part or witness the fun and frolics in Covent Garden.

London's iconic marketplace once again turned into a fun-filled obstacle course for the fundraising event in aid of Cancer Research UK

The event was organised by CRAC on behalf of Cancer Research UK and supported by Fox's and Covent Garden Market.

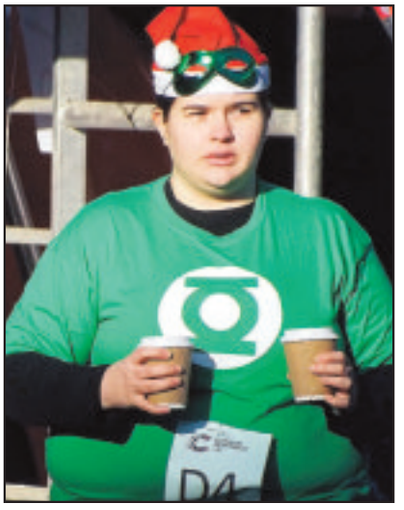
Teams of six people ranging from students to trustees donned fancy dress costumes including frogs, superheroes and snowmen to compete in the event. Each team had to race around the piazza while carrying a Christmas pudding and building a Mr Potato Head face on it.

Now in its 34th year the event has raised more the £1million to date for the charity and has helped to provide vital equipment and facilities for Cancer Research UK.

The race was opened by 'The Queen' before contestants took part in a much needed Zumba warm-up on a sunny but crisp, cold winter's day.

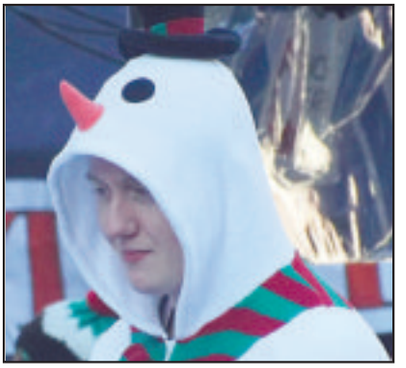
Entertainment also came in the form of Elle and The Pocket Belles, who put their swingin' stamp on a number of festive favourites and original Christmas songs.

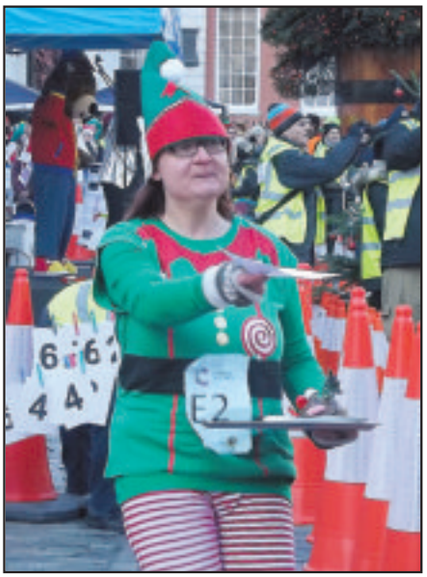
The festive affair is held each year to raise funds for the world's leading cancer charity.



Cancer Research UK

Garden hosts its wackiest event





LWN NEWS FROM KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Legal notices served to control construction traffic near schools

COUNCIL TAKES A STRICT LINE WITH OFFENDING DEVELOPERS

THE Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has ordered work on a basement on Victoria Road and Cottesmore Gardens, W8, to stop unless the developers stick to agreed construction traffic management plans, following residents' concerns that vehicles were causing disruption during school runs.

Work is currently going on at the two properties, 38 Victoria Road and 6 Cottesmore Gardens, following earlier planning permissions for basement developments and other associated works.

Planning permission was granted subject to a condition that construction traffic would not deliver to and from the site before 9.30am or after 3pm.

This was to ensure construction traffic did not lead to traffic congestion when schoolchildren and parents were travelling to the two nearby schools.

Following reports to the council its planning enforcement officers witnessed construction traffic serving each site before 9.30am. Consequently, the officers issued Breach of Condition Notices on the property owners and the development companies Primus Build Ltd and Intelitrade Developments Ltd on the 25 November 2014.

Repeated offence

Despite this, early morning deliveries continued at 38 Victoria Road and therefore a Temporary Stop Notice was served on Intelitrade Development Ltd on the December 5th due to the repeated nature of the offence and the immediate harm it was causing.

The effect of these notices means any future breaches by the developers will be a criminal offence. Each breach witnessed could lead to a maximum penalty of £20,000 in a magistrates court and unlimited if heard in a crown court.

Cllr Timothy Coleridge, Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, said: "The council takes a strict line with developers who ignore their planning conditions which we impose to protect residents from the unreasonable impact of construction traffic.

"This is particularly the case when development is in close proximity to schools and therefore both developers must comply with their planning conditions or face the prospect of being prosecuted."

Temporary stop notices are used sparingly by most local authorities. However, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea have served ten Temporary Stop Notices this year alone specifically in relation to construction traffic breaching planning conditions.

VW agency celebrates its diamond jubilee

THE UK's longest established Volkswagen (VW) garage, Monaco VW, is celebrating its diamond jubilee this autumn, having served London for 60 years.

Located in the heart of South Kensington, Monaco VW has a reputation for both technical expertise and exemplary customer service among its clientele.

Using all of the latest service and diagnostic equipment in the hands of highly-trained technicians, Monaco VW looks after more than 4,000 customers within the M25. The business is able to honour all Integrated Servicing Packages for new VW cars as well as maintaining older vehicles within the Volkswagen stable (Audi, Seat, Skoda) using only 100 per cent genuine parts and accessories.

As well as being first point of call for servicing, MOTs and accident repairs, Monaco VW also offers pre-owned Volkswagen models directly from the manufacturer's disposal channels for those customers looking for the highest quality used vehicles. A comprehensive valeting service from concourse detailing to service washes is available for all customers' vehicles.

The company's prime central London location makes it convenient for private clients and business customers to access the wide range of services. Monaco VW offers a complimentary collection and drop off service within a three-mile radius. Personal care and quality of service are at the core of the business, just two of the reasons why the multi-faceted company continues to flourish entering its seventh decade.

The company's aim is to keep their customers on the road by effectively managing their vehicles, regardless of the vehicle's make or model, leaving them free from worry surrounding legal requirements such as MOT dates, warranty issues and vehicle recalls. This is achieved by having a state of the art CRM database which details the requirements of all customers' vehicles and ensuring that communication with customers is pre-emptive and timely.

Monaco VW continues the legacy of the founder Tadeuz Josef Filipinski under the guidance of dealer principal Anthony Barrell and with over 150 years combined management experience in dealing with all types of the most sophisticated vehicles, customers have peace of mind that their cars are being managed and cared for by the best servicing specialists in Central London.

NEWS FROM NICK ...

with Nicholas Paget-Brown, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Mega-basements are brought down to size

The Council has just achieved something very important for its residents. We now have new, much tougher policies on basement developments.

Getting those new policies agreed by the Planning Inspectorate has been a long and arduous battle, two years long in fact.

Thousands of officer hours and much expenditure have been required but we kept going because we knew how important it was to our residents.

> **It needs to be recognised that mega-basements are big business in central London and that our policy changes were bitterly opposed by many developers.**

People will of course still be able to apply to add a basement to their properties but the two and three storey mega-basements that we have been plagued with these last few years are now against Council planning policy.

It needs to be recognised that mega-basements are big business in central London and that our policy changes were bitterly opposed by many developers.

I want to thank our ace planning team for leading the fight for change and I also want to thank our residents associations for backing us up at the planning inquiry and throughout the campaign.

Organisations that make our borough great

■ ONE of the things I have been trying to do as Council Leader is to go round the borough meeting the organisations that make Kensington and Chelsea the great place that it is.

Every now and then the events that I go to turn out to be particularly memorable. Two stand outs from recent weeks are the Venture Centre annual general meeting and the Cardinal Vaughan centenary celebrations.

Two great institutions, powering on all cylinders each with plenty of achievements under their belt and each making a tangible difference to local lives.

It's counter-intuitive I know, but I really enjoyed the AGM, it was lively, fun even, but then the Venture Centre is a quite remarkably lively place despite being currently located in the middle of the Wornington Green building site.

Whether it's the steel band, IT training, after school clubs, adventure play, chat, yoga, zumba or just good old fashioned tea and talk, you'll find it all there and receive a very warm welcome too.

Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School's recent centenary celebration at the Royal Albert Hall was quite something too.

In fact it was a quite awesome night out, entertaining and moving in equal measure and all capped off with a rousing rendition of Bunyan's *To be a pilgrim.* Apart from *Jerusalem*, I can't think of a more stirring anthem and many in the audience, myself included, were visibly affected.

We'd already heard details of each of the 40 pupils who gave their lives in the Second World War and to follow that with the glorious sound of hundreds of people, young and old alike, all belting out one of the greatest of all English hymns, was unforgettable!

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

To contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email theleader@rbkc.gov.uk

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LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

Schools and letters

■ SION-Manning pupils who sold their artwork to help the homesless at Christmas

Schoolgirls fund 15 places for homeless to stay at Christmas

FIFTEEN homeless people will have a place to stay this Christmas thanks to pupils from Sion-Manning School who sold their art and design work at Portobello Market to raise money for the charity Crisis at Christmas.

Years 8, 9 and 10 students have been trading at the market on a monthly basis since October to raise money for Crisis at Christmas and CAFOD and have raised nearly £600.

While approximately £300 will go to Crisis at Christmas to fund 15 overnight places, the remaining £300 goes to CAFOD to buy necessary equipment to support its work in Africa.

In addition to helping good causes, the girls are also picking up valuable work skills as part of their Employability Passport Programme.

Last Saturday, December 6th the girls were joined at Portobello Market by sixth form students from the London Oratory School who were selling calendars they had made with homeless people to raise funds for another homeless shelter called The Passage, based in Victoria.

Sion-Manning teacher Sam Lord said: "Rather than take their art work home the girls decided to sell it at the market and raise money for charity. They've done really well and I am very proud of them."

SOULFUNKY - BOXING DAY at Belair House
BOXING DAY at Belair House
BELAIR HOUSE, Gallery Road, Dulwich, London SE21 7AB
FRIDAY 26th December / 8pm - 2am / Tickets £7.50pp
A Quality night for the Over 30's
Soul, Funk, Jazz Funk, Rare Groove & Soulful House
Legendary DJ GREG EDWARDS (Soul Spectrum & Mi-Soul.com)
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TERRY JAMES (Selectukradio.com/Soulfunky Events)
SAM GREEN & HUET BARTELS (Back 2 Back Again!)
Smart Casual Dress / i.d. may be required (r.o.a.r.) / Wristbands must be worn at all times
Tickets: www.soulfunky.co.uk / Or call: 07740 351163
Facebook: SoulFunky Events
SOUL FUNKY
Belair House
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Letters to the Editor

Play services: why we're outsourcing

SIR - The Royal Borough's play service is indeed very good (Kensington News ,December 1th). So why then are we changing it?

There are two reasons, the first of which is well known. We are in a prolonged period of austerity. Not only has local government borne the brunt of the cuts so far, further cuts are likely to go on for years to come, and every area of council business must adapt accordingly. The Labour Party is trying to pretend that Kensington and Chelsea is somehow immune to the impacts of austerity being felt by every other local authority in the land. But such claims do not withstand serious scrutiny.

The second reason for change is this: even in good times, councils should try to make sensible savings where they can, provided no serious harm results. Our critics are claiming that the choice before us is between the good service we currently enjoy and a really bad one in which residents' interests are sacrificed.

The reality, however, is that we are not asking G4S to run our schemes, we are asking our local schools - and our schools are uniformly good, uniformly trustworthy, and at least as expert in looking after our children as the play service. They will either deliver the service directly or bring in someone to do so. We already have such providers operating at a couple of schools, and guess what, their service is really good!

We intend to buy the required number of free places for vulnerable children. We have high hopes that those on modest incomes won't be hard hit, and perhaps not even hit at all. In any event a new tax credit kicks in next September that will help with any additional cost.

And so we intend to follow the majority of other local authorities in outsourcing our play service to schools and voluntary organisations. We believe we can do so without any serious risk to our residents. The saving, and the many others like it made each year, will mean that the several hundred services we provide and on which so many of our residents rely can continue to be delivered, austerity or not.

Cllr Elizabeth Campbell,
Cabinet Member for Families and Children

If you want to sound off about an issue affecting Central London, email your letter to editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Too many pubs lost to this 'manic craze'

SIR - Really pleased to find, once again, a paper local for Kensington and Chelsea.

I was horrified to read, from your front page (December 4th) that yet another community attraction, the Kensington Park Hotel, was under threat from greedy developers, who want to make money by selling it off as luxury flats to foreign investors, who will never occupy the flats but keep them as investments and, as a sop to the shopping parade, create yet another estate agency.

So many pubs, shops, hotels and offices have been lost, recently, to the manic craze for residential values in Kensington and Chelsea that, one day, people coming to live here (as I did in 1961) will find that there is no life left here to come to:- just a huge area of posh properties and empty streets.

The council has a policy on public houses, and is on the residents'side, but is continually outplayed by big money, and by well-paid consultants, who deceive Planning Inspectors, at appeal, when the council refuses permission for change of use, by false economics, and by fake figures. I hope that that Inspectors will have by now learned that they have been deceived, and that the ouncil will win, in the case of the KPH.

Charles Hopkins,
30, Wallingford Avenue,
W10 6PX

KPH petition link

SIR - I, like many other residents of this borough, am pleased to see the return of a local newspaper and wish LWN well with this launch.

Again, like many other residents, I believe we have lost enough pubs, and am vehemently opposed to conversion of use for KPH to luxury flats with yet another estate agents on the ground floor! Sadly, the link you provide to the petition on the front page is wrong.

I spent some considerable time locating the petition whose link is as follows:

https://www.change.org/p/councillor-rock-feilding-mellen-make-the-kph-an-asset-of-community-value

I have no idea where what you got what was printed, but I would urge you to print the correct link asap (suitably shortened as necessary via tinyurl.com or bitly.com etc.) as there is a lot of interest/support for KPH in the area.

Otherwise; keep up the good work.

Philip Kane
by email

City's animal warden service 'doing fantastic work' looking after strays

WESTMINSTER City Council's animal warden service has been recognised for the third consecutive year for its work to tackle the problem of stray dogs and look after their welfare.

The council's stray dog service won a gold award in the RSPCA's annual Community Animal Welfare Footprint awards (CAWF), which recognise the highest standards of professional practice.

Westminster's animal wardens also achieved a bronze award for their animal welfare work on housing estates, where they work closely with registered landlords and local dog owners to promote responsible pet ownership.

In July last year, the council launched an 18-month campaign to raise awareness of the responsibility owners bear for their dog.

Each of the city's twenty wards has its own dedicated Westminster warden who works alongside the animal wardens, and whose responsibilities include taking action against irresponsible dog owners.

In the first year of the campaign Westminster's wardens carried out an extra 3,600 hours of dedicated patrols across dog-fouling hotspots, which saw complaints drop by a third.

Dog owners in Westminster are also being encouraged to take up the council's offer of free microchipping – the most effective way to reunite lost dogs with their owners – which will become a legal requirement in April 2016.

Cllr Ed Argar, Westminster City Council's cabinet member for city management, said:"These prestigious awards are well-deserved, and I am delighted that our animal wardens have been recognised by the RSPCA for the fantastic work they do to protect stray and vulnerable dogs.

"As a council we are doing our bit to ensure Westminster's dogs are well looked after and enforce against irresponsible behaviour.

"Westminster City Council has long recognised the importance of responsible dog ownership. That's why we launched our 'Your Dog, Your Responsibility' campaign – encouraging people to report issues, tackling anti-social behaviour and engaging with dog owners themselves."

●Westminster City Council's animal wardens can microchip your dog for free. To book a visit from a warden call 020 7641 2000.

visit dreams.co.uk or call 0800 652 5090

Dreams

Because your sleep matters

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

Bridging the generation gap

MIHRET Kedane waits on Jean Parker and Josie Newton

CHEERS from Shirley Wells and Audrey Martindale

Students and guests enjoy the Christmas spirit

ORGANISERS Rosa Lagunas and Marian Granaghan enjoy a break from the festive frolics

STUDENTS got a taste of work experience when they hosted a Senior Citizens' Christmas Party at a Ladbrooke Grove school.

The year 10 students waited on the guests who all enjoyed a free yuletide dinner when they visited Sion-Manning Roman Catholic Girls' School.

More than 80 senior citizens enjoyed festive food including mince pies, Christmas themed songs from the Lower School Choir, a raffle and "goodie bags" when they met in the Charles Square school.

Headteacher Mrs Leach said some of the guests were new this year, but the vast majority came year after year, adding that it had come to mean something special for the school as well.

She said: "It's good for the students because they get work experience based skills and learn how to interact with a different generation.

"It bridges the gap between the young people and the older generation. They mean such a lot to each other by the time the meal has finished. It's a wonderful event for everyone."

The event was organised by the Rosa Lagunas, Marian Granaghan and Margaret Shortiss from the school.

The school holds two events each year for senior citizens, the other being a cream tea afternoon during the summer.

The event cost around £1,500 to put on and was funded through the hiring of the school to third parties – including the police during the Notting Hill Carnival and film crews.

Vice chairman of the school's governors, Tony O'Halloran, said: "It was part of the school's outreach to the community and allows us to do a bit of good and allows the girls to actually get involved with the community."

John O'Donnell, chairman of the school governors, said: "The school contacts people in the district who we believe would benefit from coming. It's been going on for a good few years and has become a well established part of their routine."

AMAIL Benariba and Christine George

CATHLEEN Murphy and Mary Marley have some festive fun

ENTERTAINMENT from the Lower School Choir

GUESTS Malini Jani and Lena Vella

SOPHIA Elmekabbaty serves guests

HARVEY Groffman, Jade Smith and Catt Langley

FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

London WEEKLY News

ISSUE 4 | PICK UP A FREE COPY | Thursday, December 18th 2014

Have yourselves a right royal Christmas

LWN ROYAL SPECIAL

■ FESTIVE SMILE: Her Majesty The Queen pictured when the Royal Family attended the Christmas Day service at St Mary Magdalene Church on The Sandringham Estate last year. *Photo: Tim Rooke/REX*

FORGET all of the latest fads and fashions of the nouveau kitsch; if you want to add real class to your Christmas this year, do it the royal way and keep it simple.

They may be the Planet Earth's First Family but when it comes to celebrating the season the royals insist on having a traditional time – and here's a guide of how to have a Queen-like Christmas:

Keep it in the family. Only royals are invited when the family gathers on Christmas Eve. Guests can be invited on Boxing Day.

All the family are expected to assemble at 4 pm on Christmas Eve for the children to add decorations for the final dressing of a 20ft tree, an institution invented by Queen Victoria. Men are expected to wear lounge suits and women wear dresses.

Dressing the tree is followed by tea. The Royal Family prefer Earl Grey with a variety of dishes including cucumber sandwiches with the crusts cut off, jam sandwiches (one of The Queen's favourites), small scones the size of a 50p piece, ginger cake and, another of Her Majesty's favourites, McVities chocolate biscuit cake – made with 8oz of Rich Tea biscuits and 12oz of dark chocolate.

By Geoff Baker

After tea, the presents are opened. The Royal Family always open their presents on Christmas Eve and the rule for gift-giving is that they should be cheap and preferably silly. Prince Harry was once given a Grow Your Own Girlfriend Kit, Prince Charles is said to have especially liked Princess Anne's gift of a padded leather toilet seat and The Queen was much amused to have been given on one occasion a kitchen apron and on another, a toy rubber chicken which squawked.

The Queen's cocktail

After presents, champagne or martinis are served – with The Queen preferring 'The Zaza' cocktail of Dubonnet and gin, one part Dubonnet to one part gin, poured over ice and served with a twist of lemon peel.

After cocktails, everyone goes to their rooms to prepare for dinner, which is served at 8pm and by candlelight. Men are expected to wear black tie and the women their finest gowns and best jewels, complete with tiaras.

On Christmas Day all the members of the Royal Family wake to find a stocking at the end of their beds, filled with small gifts.

■ TURN TO PAGE 3

Inside London's new weekly

A tradition the nation has taken to its heart...

Westminster & Pimlico News (established 1857) ◆ Chelsea News (established 1957) ◆ Kensington News (established 1869)

Happy Christmas to all our readers and advertisers.
The London Weekly News will be published again on January 8th

THE paper serving ROYAL London

ROYAL LONDON

Meeting the Royals on Christmas Day

Photo by Tim Rooke/REX

Photo by Tim Rooke/REX

■ FROM PAGE ONE

Christmas Day breakfast can include eggs (The Queen believes that brown ones taste best) and sausages. Her Majesty enjoys sausages and gets hers from Musk's of Newmarket, who make their 75 per cent pork bangers to a 120-year-old recipe. Kippers, too, are on the breakfast menu, the royals' smoked fish coming from Fortune of Whitby. Toast is served with Frank Cooper's Oxford marmalade.

After breakfast, church. The Royal Family insist on all attending a traditional service for prayers and carol singing.

Christmas lunch is served at 1pm and is always a roasted Norfolk turkey with roast potatoes. Accompaniments include Brussels sprouts served with fresh, roasted chestnuts. Christmas pudding with brandy sauce follows and then the royals' favourite Double Gloucester cheese from Charles Martell & Sons of Hunts Court, Gloucestershire.

Crackers are always pulled at the Christmas lunch and everyone with the exception of the Queen wears a paper crown. Her Majesty's bespoke crackers are made by Celebration Crackers of Dorset.

All proceedings stop at 3pm when the family gathers around the television to watch the Queen's Christmas message.

Depending on the weather, Christmas afternoon pursuits can vary from a brisk dog walk to completing a jigsaw puzzle (one of the Queen's favourite festive pastimes) or charades, at which Her Majesty is said to be a champion as she is an excellent mimic.

In the evening champagne and cocktails are served again and it should be noted that the Queen no longer serves caviar nor foie gras as canapés, due to conservation and animal welfare concerns.

Black-tie Christmas dinner is served at 8.15 pm. Dishes may include *Oeufs Drumkibo*, a shrimp cocktail made with fresh mayonnaise, Tabasco and anchovy paste of which the Queen and Prince Charles are fond (the royal potted shrimps come from James Baxter & Son of Morecambe, Lancashire), mushrooms a la crème, and beef from the royal Aberdeenshire butchers HM Sheridan of Ballater and Donald Russell of Inverurie.

At the end of the meal, the women retire to an ante-room as the men serve port and brandy. And thence to bed – although none of the grown-ups may go up before the Queen.

FLORIST
FLORAL HALL
& GARDEN CENTRE

At our shop FLORAL HALL you will find a beautiful assortment of door wreaths, garlands, tables centres and gift ideas. We have a beautiful selection of hand made chocolates, stocking fillers, glass and china, as well as great gift wrap and crackers! A wide range of fresh flowers are always available and bespoke arrangements can be made to order.

Our GARDEN CENTRE will be transformed into a Winter Wonderland with a wide range of quality trees and a great selection of stands, lights and decorations.
7-11 Landsdown Hill SE27 0LP

Christmas Trees will be available at Floral Hall Garden Centre from Wednesday 26th November

Floral Hall 370 Norwood Road, West Norwood, SE27 9AA
Tel: 0208 670 3200 · info@floralhalllondon.co.uk

Twenty things you didn't know about the Queen and Prince Philip

1 THE Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh have sent more than 37,500 Christmas cards during her reign. At the current price of a 62p first class stamp, the postage would be £23,250.

2 The Duke is a keen collector of original political and royal cartoons. His collection hangs in Sandringham.

3 Following the tradition established by George V and George VI, the Queen has given out around 80,000 Christmas puddings to staff. She also gives gifts to all of her staff at Christmas.

4 The Duke has received many official gifts during tours abroad. On a 1961 trip to Liberia, President Tubam presented him with two live pygmy hippopotami.

5 The Queen has five corgis – Emma, Linnet, Monty, Willow and Holly. She has owned more than 30 corgis during her reign, many descending from her first – Susan – who was an 18th birthday present in 1944.

6 The Duke re-designed the gardens of Balmoral, including creating a water-garden which he dug out himself with a bulldozer.

7 The Queen was awarded a gold disc by EMI in 2002 to mark the sale of more than 100,000 copies of the Party At The Palace concert, held in her garden to mark her Golden Jubilee.

8 In 2001the Duke set up the Windsor Farm Shop, selling beef, lamb, pork, poultry and eggs from the Windsor Estate and game, apples and apple juice from the Sandringham Estate.

9 As a young girl the Queen acted in pantomime at Windsor Castle, including in the part of Prince Florizel in Cinderella in 1941.

10 The Duke owns a green-painted London taxi cab, fuelled by liquid petroleum gas.

11 The Queen owns a team of racing pigeons. In 1990 one of the Queen's birds won the Pau race and was subsequently named Sandringham Lightning.

■ THE Queen with two of her corgis in 1991. *Photo: REX*

12 The Duke is a keen fan of tiddlywinks. He designed and had made the Silver Wink trophy which has been presented since 1961 to the winners of the inter-university Tiddlywinks Championship.

13 The Queen first introduced a new breed of dog – the dorgi – when one of her corgis was mated with a dachshund. She has four dorgis; Cider, Vulcan, Berry and Candy.

14 The Duke is a natural pilot. He gained his RAF Wings in 1953, his helicopter wings with the Royal Navy in 1956 and his private pilot's licence in 1959. He gave up flying in 1997 after accumulating 6,000 hours as a pilot in 59 types of aircraft.

15 The Queen has sent more than 280,000 telegrams to couples in the UK and Commonwealth celebrating their Diamond Wedding.

16 The Duke is a fine painter of landscapes in oils.

17 The Queen is an enthusiastic photographer, an interest she has passed on to Prince Andrew.

18 The Duke is a keen designer; he designed a bracelet as his wedding present to the Queen with the stones coming from a tiara owned by his mother.

19 The Queen has sat for 139 official portraits, two with the Duke of Edinburgh. She was just seven when she sat for her first portrait, painted by the artist Philip Alexius de Laszlo.

20 The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on November 20th 2017. The Queen's wedding ring was made from a nugget of Welsh gold from the Clogau St David's mine near Dolgellau. The royal couple's wedding cake was made by McVitie & Price Ltd, using ingredients sent as a wedding gift by the Australian Girl Guides.

Compiled by Geoff Baker

ROYAL LONDON

Walking in a Winter Wonderland . . .

THE Frozen Forest, Santa Claus and the Giant Observation Wheel making a magical event in Hyde Park

In the frozen forest you might even spot a real princess

IF you haven't yet been to Hyde Park's Winter Wonderland, you must go – for it is all of the very best of Christmas all on one spot and every child's festive dream come true.

You may even see a royal there.

Already, London's No.1 free winter attraction is looking set to have its most successful year as the number of families making this their top Christmas priority visit are expected to at least match, if not beat, the 2.5 million who enjoyed it last year.

It is very easy to see why. What child could fail to be enchanted as she walks through the Frozen Forest, an eye-popping spectacular of ice where there are fairies, princesses, forest animals and even a unicorn are to be discovered, before she sits with the knights of the Round Table, meets Merlin and sees the mighty ice dragon. You don't get that at MacDonalds.

This year Winter Wonderland is bigger than ever before and back as a main attraction is the Lycamobile Ice Rink, Britain's biggest outdoor ice rink where skaters perform to the accompaniment of live music from the Victorian bandstand. For a fantastic view, take to the Giant Observation Wheel to see all of the wonder below.

Father Christmas is here every day of course, ho-ho-ho'ing in Santa Land where his elves dash about finding the free gifts which are given to every child. For other gifts, there are more than 200 chalets in the Angels Christmas and Yuletide Market selling unique and delightful handmade treats of ceramics, candles, jewellery, wooden toys and decorations.

ENTERTAINERS keep the crowds warm

Fabulousness

Given the utter fabulousness of it all, it's little surprise that Winter Wonderland has become not only the capital's most popular Christmas attraction with families but with the fun-seeking famous too.

Among the stars who have visited Wonderland already are Prince Harry and Princess Beatrice, One Direction, Tom Cruise, Kate Moss, Chris Martin, Liam Gallagher, Damien Lewis, Uma Thurman, Kelly Brook And Rod Stewart and Penny Lancaster.

Besides for the skating and the bratwurst and mulled wine at the Bavarian Village with its variety of restaurants, many come for the stand-out festive fiesta of Zippos Circus, performing two different shows in the biggest circus venue in London.

During the day, Zippos lights up smiles on faces with a family show featuring all of the traditional oo and aah-making circus acts, this year imaginatively set in a Caribbean themed production, and in the evening there is the high thrills of Cirque Berserk's Mechanika, presenting the most dangerous circus acts in the world which include the Globe of Death; three motorcyclists speeding at 60 mph in a small steel globe.

You have never seen the like of Winter Wonderland and you will never forget it. Entrance is free and for all tickets to the star attractions, book at www.hydepark-winterwonderland.com

PRINCESS Beatrice enjoys the Winter Wonderland

THE Globe of Death

ROYAL LONDON gather round at 3pm on Christmas day

A tradition the nation has taken to its heart

Christmas afternoon wouldn't be the same without a few words from Her Majesty

By Geoff Baker

AT 3pm on Christmas Day all festivity stops for The Queen, as millions of families gather to hear the Royal Christmas Message.

But in the early days of the radio broadcast 80 years ago, it wasn't the King that the nation and Commonwealth first heard – it was the voice of an old Cotwolds shepherd talking about his mother's plum pudding.

In what would be the equivalent these days of having Joe Grundy from The Archers introducing the Queen, the BBC hit on the idea of having a 64-year-old sheep farmer introduce King George V for the radio broadcast which had been created two years earlier to inaugurate the Empire Service, now the BBC World Service.

Although Rudyard Kipling wrote the inaugural speech for him, the King had initially been hesitant about demonstrating the new technology which would enable his unknown voice to be heard for the first time in Australia, Canada, India, Kenya and South Africa.

But no such wariness affected 'The Cotswold Shepherd', Walton Handy, when he was chosen to introduce the King for the 1934 broadcast.

As the empire tuned in expecting to hear the King from his home at Sandringham, instead they heard Walton talking in broad Warwickshire accent from his home village of Ilmington.

One can imagine the confusion it may have caused as Walton began: "Where I stand used to be the old tithe barn, where my grandad and great-grandad used to thresh the corn. I was born 200 yards from here, and I a'been a shepherd all my life."

Latecomers to the royal broadcast could have been even more flummoxed, possibly worried that the King was somewhat strapped for cash, as Walton continued: "My Dad worked for ten shillings a week and brought up eleven of us…"

Eleven? The empire understood that Edward VII had only six children; what was this, and what was this talk of Good King Bertie working for only ten bob?

Walton continued: "I'm the only one left in the village and I've a brother in New Zealand and if by chance he's listening to I today, I wish he'd write to I, for I hadn't heard from him for many years. Perhaps he might like the old verse our Dad used to say to me:

'Do your best for one another
Make a life of pleasant ease,
Help a worn and weary brother,
Pulling hard against the strain.'

As some must have considered that if this was Kipling scriptwriting again, he was barely at his best, Walton went on: "We used to have some merry Christmases in those days. Our Christmas pudding was a suet roll in which our mother used to push the plums in, and Christmas was a great time for the old Mummers and also for the dancers. My wife's Dad used to play the old Tabor and pipe…."

But just as the radio-owning homes of Nairobi and Sydney began to wonder what on earth was going on, and what was this business about the Duke of Teck being a drummer, clarity dawned as Walton bowed out with his introduction proper: "I could tell ye much more about our ould Christmas customs but my time is up, so goodbye and a merry Christmas from an old shepherd – in the name of Ilmington, a merry Christmas to you all and in the name of the empire, God bless our gracious King."

KING GEORGE VI overcame a stammer to properly establish the royal Christmas broadcast

And then the King's voice began, quelling any concern about Queen Alexandra having to make her own suet pudding.

Although Walton Handy became something of a celebrity – he was offered a four-week turn in music hall at the London Palladium – the BBC dropped the idea of the monarch needing much introduction.

There was no Royal Christmas Broadcast in 1936 and 1938 and it was not until 1939 that the tradition was properly established by The Queen's father, King George VI.

Bravely defying a persecuting stammer, the King took to the airwaves from Sandringham to reassure his people in a world at war. He dressed in the uniform of Admiral of the Fleet and gave a landmark speech which was to rally the morale of a frightened nation and inspire them to hold fast as the King spoke from his heart:

Love of peace

"The festival which we know as Christmas is above all a festival of peace and of the home. Among all free peoples the love of peace is profound, for this alone gives security to the home.

"But true peace is in the hearts of men, and it is the tragedy of this time that there are powerful countries whose whole direction and policy are based on aggression and on the suppression of all that we hold dear for mankind. It is this that has stirred our peoples and given them a unity unknown in any previous war. We feel in our hearts that we are fighting against wickedness, and this conviction will give us strength from day to day to persevere until victory is assured."

Near the end of the nine-minute broadcast, he said: "A new year is at hand. We cannot tell what it will bring. If it brings peace, how thankful we shall all be. If it brings us continued struggle, we shall remain undaunted."

The King ended his speech by quoting a poem given to him by his daughter, the then 13-year-old Princess Elizabeth, which contained the lines, "I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

The words were to be the Queen's first contribution to a Royal Christmas Message and they set the tone for her purpose in it in all of the Christmas broadcasts she has made as monarch since 1952.

Only once since, in 1969, has the Queen not given a Royal Christmas Message and that was because of a scheduled repeat of the BBC documentary Royal Family, which went behind the scenes to see the royals at work and at play water-skiing, flying planes and having a family barbecue.

Although the documentary transfixed 22 million viewers, it dented the mystique of the Royal Family and the public complained that Christmas tradition was not about TV cameras intruding on the Queen trying the salad dressing. Viewers wanted to hear from their Queen at Christmas, and not to be treated like flies of the BBC on the wall of Balmoral.

Fortunately for tradition, Buckingham Palace agreed and The Queen's Speech has marked Christmas ever since.

'THE COTSWOLD SHEPHERD: Walton Handy was chosen to introduce the King's Christmas broadcast in 1934, much to the confusion of some listeners

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WINE & DINE

The food and drink page for West London

Sweet treats for a festive feast

CHRISTMAS is the one time of year when we don't have to feel guilty for stuffing our faces with sweet treats. But for Martha Swift, co-founder and now sole owner of Primrose Bakery, in London's Primrose Hill, which she set up more than a decade ago, sugary indulgence takes place every single day.

"I have a very sweet tooth," she says with a twinkle in her eye.

"Perhaps it's no surprise I ended up starting Primrose Bakery, being able to make and try cupcakes, cakes, biscuits and many other things all day long.

"Around Christmas, my shops are decorated with lots of festive decorations, both edible and non-edible, including our cute, decorated gingerbread sausage dogs, in honour of my sausage dog Charlie, who's sort of the bakery mascot and pops up in our shops and books."

Swift's new book - the bakery's fourth publication - is bursting with delicious sickly sweet but uber-tempting cupcakes, to delicious desserts and show-stoppers Mary Berry would be proud of.

MARTHA SWIFT at her Primrose Bakery in Primrose Hill

The Primrose Bakery has been bringing an extra bit of twinkle to their Christmas baking for over a decade and in her new book Martha Swift reveals her unique twists and exciting reinventions of traditional Christmas treats.

CLEMENTINE Cake with Greek yoghurt icing

"It was a pleasure to write Primrose Bakery Christmas," says the 45-year-old mum of two.

"I hope the recipes are both pleasurable and straightforward to make at home, and also for all of us at the bakery, to make and sell in the two shops. There's always a great atmosphere in the lead up to Christmas, and everyone seems a little bit more excited and happy than usual.

"I'm not a huge lover of the classic Christmas desserts, but I really love chocolate, so my Christmas Day always features a lot!

"I'll be making a Dark Chocolate And Fresh Mint Truffle Tart for my mum and I, and then perhaps the Oreo Chocolate Chip Cookies for my two daughters," she adds.

"In honour of the clementines that were always in the toe of my Christmas stocking, the Clementine Cake With Greek Yoghurt Icing would make a delicious dessert for a pre-Christmas dinner party.

"All I can say is hurry up Christmas, so I can make and eat all these things!"

If you can't face the turkey flap ...

SCORES of restaurants across London will be open on Christmas Day for those who want a break from doing the stuffing and washing-up, but save your pennies as a lavish Christmas lunch could cost up to £1,200 for a family of four.

Top dining guide www.hot-dinners.com provides a detailed breakdown of where to eat on Christmas Day and here's some of the highlights:

A six-course lunch with wine pairings at **Alain Ducasse** at The Dorchester, Park Lane - £295 per person.

A three-course lunch at **Bar Boulud** at The Mandarin Hotel, Knightsbridge - £78 per person.

A four-course lunch with a glass a champagne at the **Dean Street Townhouse**, Dean Street, Soho - £95 per person.

A four-course meal with canapés and champagne to start at **Galvin at Windows**, London Hilton, Park Lane - £250 per person.

A three-course lunch at the **Holborn Dining Room**, Rosewood Hotel, High Holborn - £65 per person.

A six-course lunch with entertainment including a magician and a gift from a visit by Father Christmas at **The Ritz,** Piccadilly - £400 per adult, £195 per child.

A six-course lunch at **The Savoy Grill**, Savoy Hotel, The Strand - £165 per person.

A five-course meal at **108 Brasserie**, Marylebone Lane, Marylebone will cost £80 per person.

A four-course lunch at **Butlers Wharf Chophouse and Grill**, London Bridge - £85 per person.

A four-course luxury buffet with entertainment at **L'Italiano**, Waterloo - £50 per person.

A six-course lunch at **Le Pont de la Tour**, London Bridge - £95 per person.

A three-course lunch at **Strada**, High Street Kensington - £42.95 per person.

In Chelsea, at least four pubs will be serving lunch on Christmas Day – **The Builders Arms** in Britten Street, the **Chelsea Ram** in Burnaby Street, **The Phoenix** in Smith Street and **The Surprise** in Christchurch Terrace.

All diners are advised to book ahead.

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

FILLET OF SEA TROUT WITH CUCUMBER SAUCE

[From Mark Hix British Seasonal Food, Quadrille Publishing, £14.99]

'SEA trout has a texture that is slightly more delicate than that of salmon, but it can be used in much the same way. As with salmon, the flavour of wild and farmed fish can vary somewhat. The sea trout you find in shops tends only to be wild, although I have seen a few farmed versions at the markets. The flavour is slightly earthy and delicate and it doesn't take much cooking.'

SERVES 4

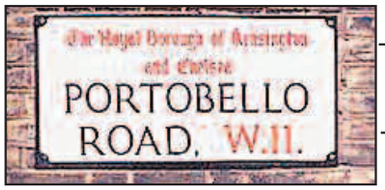
1tbsp vegetable or corn oil
sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
4 sea trout fillets, each about 150g, any residual bones removed

FOR THE SAUCE
2 small shallots, peeled and finely chopped
4 tbsps fish stock [*]
4 tbsp double cream
1 small cucumber, halved lengthways, the seeds scooped out and the flesh cut into small [5mm] dice
a good knob of butter
1 tbsp finely chopped chives

[*] FISH STOCK
2kg white fish bones rinsed, 2 leeks, rinsed and chopped, 2 onions, peeled and chopped, ½ head celery, chopped, ½ lemon, 1 tsp fennel seeds, 20 black peppercorns, 1 bay leaf, a few sprigs of thyme, handful of flat-leaf parsley.
Place all ingredients in a large saucepan and cover with cold water. Bring to the boil, lower heat and simmer for 20 minutes, skim occasionally. Strain the liquor through a sieve, taste and boil to reduce if the flavour isn't strong enough.

Heat the oil in a heavy-based or non-stick frying pan. Season the fillets and cook for 3-4 minutes each side, skin side down first. The cooking time will depend on the thickness of the fish, fillets from a smaller fish will take half the time.

Make the sauce in a saucepan, gently simmer the shallots in the fish stock until the liquid has almost all evaporated. Add the cream and cucumber, season and simmer for 2 minutes until the sauce has thickened. Stir in the butter and chives, season to taste. Spoon onto warmed plates and place the pieces of fish on top.



Small Business Saturday...

Small in beautiful in the Portobello Road

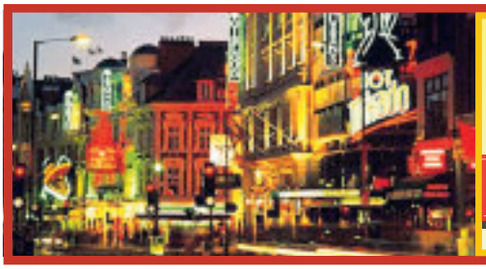
TRADERS in and around the Portobello Road pulled out all the stops to support Small Business Satuday, staged as a national campaign on December 6th to encourage people to use their local shops and market.

Supported by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Markets Office, street traders and local businesses demonstrated the wide variety of goods and services available in one of the capital's most popular shopping areas.

The day finished with some carol singing in Portobello Square.

Markets development officer Mark Atkinson said: "There was a wonderful atmosphere throughout the day and I think we demonstrated what a brilliant shopping experience the Portobello Road and surrounding streets provide."

Photos by JONATHON VINES



TALK OF THE TOWN

MUSIC ★ THEATRE ★ PUBS

The entertainment scene in West London

Grandaddies of rock back out on the road

■ STILL GOT IT: The Who packing out two nights at the O2 Arena this week

THE old boys are back in town this week, as veteran rockers return with more than 2,000 years of experience between them.

It's a bumper week for baby boomers as those who gave the songs to their salad days crowd into the capital – with The Who, Van Morrison, Chris Rea, Status Quo, The Blockheads, Madness, The Cure and UB40 all playing live.

Most likely you won't find many of them in the singles charts anymore, but that won't stop The Who packing out The O2 on December 17th and 18th nor Status Quo filling the place too the night after.

Grandfather Rock is a big deal in the live music business these days. Ever since the record business collapsed a decade or so back and forced retired older rockers back out onto the road to make ends meet, it's been the old guard who have sold out the biggest gigs by doing what they honed in the sweaty little clubs of their own youth.

In some areas of the music scene it rankles that the older legends like Bob Dylan, Paul McCartney and the Stones sop up so much of the live music cash.

Sir Paul's seemingly-endless touring is now grossing more than £2 million a show. When he returned to live performances in 1990 after a 10-year sojourn he was challenged by a journalist who asked how did he feel about the big old acts playing live and 'crowding out the younger bands?'

He quipped: 'I think let the younger bands get better and then crowd us out.'

Keith Richards put his finger on the Old v New debate when the Stones were on one of their many world tours.

"The thing about rock and roll is that as a musical form it only really started with Elvis in 1956 and so until now nobody has been old enough to be still playing in their seventies," he said.

You're never too old

"By why should rock and roll only be the pursuit of adolescents and juveniles? I want to get to where the jazzmen and bluesmen have been before, old but still playing. Who cares if you're too old to stand up and play? So sit down and play."

Sir Paul agrees: "Nobody tells B.B. King he's too old to play," he once said of the bluesman born in 1925. Although Mr King did recently come off the road after doctors said he was exhausted, he has played 70 gigs this year; not exactly inactive for a man who will be 90 next September.

So when Roger Daltrey – who celebrated his 70th birthday in March – sings 'My Generation' as The Who blast the roof off the O2 this week, the old irony of its line 'hope I die before I get old' no longer has a proper currency as the old bands are selling out more and bigger gigs than they did in their youth – The Who's 'final' world tour is already extended to November 2015.

"It's a long goodbye," says Daltrey.

"But we cannot keep on doing these long month-after-month extended tours, we have to be realistic about our age. The band got better reviews on the last tour than we had for years and it was incredibly enjoyable. But it was also incredibly exhausting."

Of course, as our heroes age then so do we and although promoters quite correctly don't play it up, there is an element of 'this could be the last time' in the fever for tickets to the old guards' shows, before they – or we – are no more.

On the other hand both Keith Richards (grandfather of five) and The Who's Pete Townshend (70 next May) both insist that one good reason for the huge popularity of the veterans' gigs is not the 'see them now or miss them forever' factor, but the fact that because they have played for so long the experience adds up to them now playing better than ever before.

By Geoff Baker

■ STATUS QUO at the O2 on December 19th

"We are what we are – and extremely good at it," says Townshend.

"I think you have to feel that you're still growing as a musician," says Richards.

"You might be fooling yourself but I think you have to feel like you're still learning everyday. We're all pensioners, although I don't feel like it and I don't think anyone else does.

"I think it's in the blood, you love your job and there's nothing really like standing in front of a load of people and them giving you encouragement. It's one of the best jobs in the world and I'm pretty well paid too."

However, when you're travelling the planet performing two to three hour shows every other night it does take a toll and one day the touring will end. But, says Roger Daltrey, even that doesn't mean that the elder rockers will retire.

■ VAN Morrison plays Nell's Jazz & Blues W14 December 19th - 21st

"This may be the last tour but it's not the last thing that The Who will do. We're still going to be doing shows. We've always been there for charity shows; when people are in trouble and need a band for a charity show, we can do it and that's not going to change."

The Who play The O2 on December 17th-18th, Status Quo play The O2 Dec 19th, UB40 and Madness play The O2 Dec 20th, Van Morrison plays Nell's Jazz & Blues W14 Dec 19th-21st, Chris Rea plays The Hammersmith Apollo Dec 20th, The Cure play The Hammersmith Apollo Dec 21st and The Blockheads play The Jazz Café, Camden, Dec 19th-20th.

■ MADNESS at the O2 December 20th

TALK OF THE TOWN ☆ The entertainment scene in West London

TOP TIPS: Some of Gary Crowley's favourites, left to right, Genghar, Shura, Juce and Movie

If Gary Crowley likes your music you've pretty much cracked it

By Geoff Baker

WHEN it comes to spotting new talent in the music business there is nobody better than Gary Crowley.

As The Godfather of Taste, the acclaimed and award-winning BBC London, BBC6 and Amazing Radio DJ is more responsible than anyone for championing new bands which went on to be massive legends after winning his nod.

His unparalleled knack and track record for picking greats before few others had heard of them has earned him the respect and attention of the industry, for The Clash, The Jam, The Sex Pistols, Wham!, Bananarama, The Style Council, Oasis, Blur, Pulp, Bjork, The Manic Street Preachers, Henry Rollins, Massive Attack, Suede and Bush all owe a good part of their rise to fame to the expert ears of the brilliant star-maker.

It is no wonder that the former NME writer who became the UK's youngest DJ at the age of 19, when he joined Capital Radio in 1980, was asked by George Michael to compere the first national Wham! tour and no surprise either that, as their own thank you, Noel and Liam Gallagher invited him to introduce Oasis at their historic 1996 Knebworth concert.

In a nutshell, if Gary Crowley says he likes your music you've cracked it – which no doubt accounts for why tsars of the record business regularly listen to Gary Crowley Presents on Tuesday nights on Amazing and to his BBC London show on Saturday evenings; for A&R men looking for new bands on the horizon, Gary's shows provide the best pointer since radar.

So, as radio and record chiefs and gig-goers wonder who to follow in 2015, we went to the master himself to ask for his five top tips of the London bands most likely to break in the New Year.

"I like all of 'em!" says Gary. Here's his ones to watch:

GENGHAR. Gary says: "One of the bands being tipped for big things next year; a London four-piece who gave us the awesome "Powder" earlier this year, Genghar have unveiled a new track called 'Bathed In Light' which is equally as special."

SHURA. Gary says: "23-year-old Londoner Aleksandra Denton aka Shura's music pulls at the heartstrings. The singer-songwriter-producer nail this with the impressive 'Touch' and she continues down a similar path on another song, 'Just Once'."

GROVES. Gary says: "If you can imagine Massive Attack getting it on with early Pink Floyd, maybe it sounded something like this. London quintet Groves first impressed with a trio of tracks back in July of this year, and have now transferred one of the demos over to their Soundcloud page, where it's sure to reach a wider audience. 'Paperback' is somewhere between the accessible, yet slightly-off-kilter, indie pop."

JUCE. Gary says: "They gave us one of the year's stand-out gems in 'Call You Out', smile-inducing soul. London trip Juce are newly-signed to Island and big things are hoped for next year. They're a trio consisting of Georgia, Chalin and Cherish. They're already calling themselves 'timeless', but their debut 'Call You Out' could pretty much emerge from any era – the 70s onwards – and have the same impact."

MOVIE. Gary says: "Their new single 'Tusk Vegas' impresses, infectious electro-pop from the South London three-piece. Their debut single, 'Ads', and the follow up, 'Mr Fist', also have made them lots of friends."

To hear more top notch music, hear Gary Crowley on Saturdays 6-9 pm on BBC London 94.9 and on Tuesdays 7-9 pm on Amazing Radio on DAB.

GODFATHER OF TASTE: Gary Crowley

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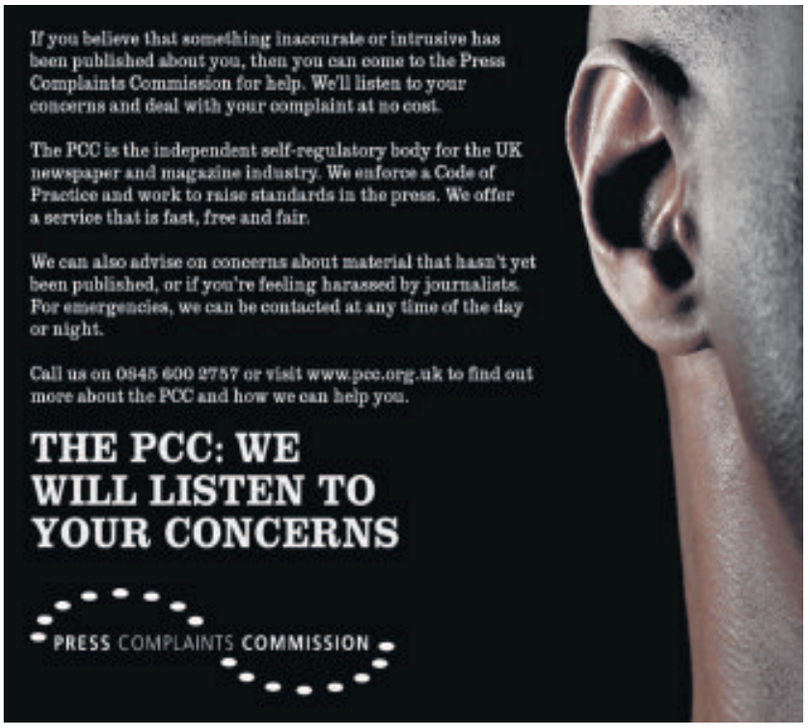
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Members of Hammersmith Boxing Academy flexing their muscles.

Chelsea face old favourite

THE draw for the last 16 of the Champions League could have been kinder to Chelsea, who have been paired with French champions Paris St-Germain.

It was the first tie pulled out of the hat in Nyon, Switzerland on Monday.

Not that Blues will fear PSG, who are currently second behind Marseille in France's Ligue 1. The teams met in last season's quarter-final, when an 87th minute Demba Ba strike saw Chelsea scramble through on the away goals rule.

In Zlatan Ibrahimovic PSG possess one of Europe's most exciting strikers, although they are over-reliant on him and struggled when he was out injured.

The buzz around The Bridge is that the French side also include former Blues favourite David Luiz, the sometimes erratic Brazilian centre-back who was sold to PSG for £50m in the summer.

The first leg will be played in Paris on Tuesday, February 17, with the return at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday, March 11.

Chelsea knew before Monday's draw that they could have met Juventus, Basel, Bayer Leverkusen, Shakhtar Donetsk or PSG..

Boxing clever

GET Set Go Sport, who create sports opportunities for the community, recently opened Hammersmith Boxing Academy.

Based at EHWLC (Hammersmith campus), students are offered the chance to become Level 1 England Boxing coaches as well as England Boxing instructors.

The courses, which take place at the college, run throughout the academic year and are open to 16 to 19-year-olds.

"However, we may be able to increase the age limit next September as the course is proving very popular," says co-ordinator Jennifer Hunter."

Hammersmith Boxing Academy is also fully affiliated with England Boxing and runs boxing session for the public every Saturday (12.00pm to 2.00pm), Tuesdays (6.00pm to 8.00pm) and Thursdays (6.00pm to 8.00pm). The sessions are mixed gender and available to anyone age 16 years-plus.

Hunter added: "We also offer a UTW (Urban Trench Warfare) Combat Academy Karate/Self Defence class. We hold women's self defence classes every Monday (6pm to 7pm) and a mixed Karate class every Wednesday at the college (6.00pm to 7.00pm). The class is run by Aleksandar Radonyov, Karate (Shotokan) Instructor Black belt 1-Dan.

For more info, visit www.utwcombatacademy.co.uk or email info@getsetgosport.co.uk. Alternatively, phone 07830 323 839.

All sessions are run at EHWLC (Hammersmith Campus, Gliddon Road, Barons Court, London, W14 9BL.

FULHAM Hawks Ladies Handball team are currently recruiting for a women's squad to compete in next season's London Development League.

Women's training sessions are held on Saturdays from 11.00am to 12.00pm.

If you want to compete or just join the club to have fun, check out their website at www.fulhamhawkshandball.co.uk, email info@fulhamhawkshandball.co.uk or call 07830 323 839.

FULHAM Boys School have announced an exciting co-curricular timetable next term that they hope will also appeal to pupils from other local schools in Kensington and Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham and Wandsworth.

Head of Sport, Dan Lane, said: "At FBS we have a substantial co-curricular programme which all our boys take part in three times per week. We are keen to build links with all the local primary schools and we would like to invite year 5 and 6 boys to take part in some of these activities as well."

The varied timetable features football, cricket nets, boxing, rowing, fencing, volleyball, judo, plus parkour and break dancing.

Sessions will run each week from January 12, 2015 until Easter. Limited spaces are available for non-FBS year 5 and 6 boys, which will be given on a first come, first served basis.

Lane added: "There are no fees at all for taking part in any of these sessions. The boys attending simply need to wear sports kit. There will be specialist equipment provided for judo and fencing."

HAMMERS HANG ON

● **RUGBY UNION**

Old Haberdashers...16

Hammersmith & Fulham...20

TRIES by James Lo and Joel Rabbidge and a stirring comeback performance by Tom Assal steered H&F to a narrow four-point win on Saturday.

Hammers assembled kitted out in festive attire for their league trip to in-form Old Haberdashers, who started the game strongly, making line breaks and testing Hammers' scrambled defence. Infringements at the break down led to Habers opening the scoring with a penalty.

Although they gained control and possession, H&F found it difficult to break down Habers' strong defence. Eventually, however, the pressure told, with James Lo going over in the corner and Neil McClure landing a difficult conversion. Hammers then added a penalty shortly after.

H&F continued to apply pressure and before half-time added another score when Joel Rabbidge clattered his way through from close range. The visitors could have had a third try in the first half courtesy of Tim Lawson but an excellent cover tackle saw him thwarted short of the line.

James Lo set Hammers on their way with their first try.

Habers started the second half as strongly as the first, putting Hammers under constant pressure and gaining their first try. The home crowd began to find its voice but Hammers kept their composure.

After the sides exchanged another penalty apiece, the final 10 minutes were delicately balanced at 17-16 to Hammers, who then managed to add another penalty to ensure Habers would need a try to win.

However, good work at the line out from Lloyd Beeston saw the ball turnover, allowing H&F to clear their lines. Habers were not done, though, and continued to push. Hammers defence stepped up and applied pressure, resulting in a turnover. They kept it tight to close out with a 20-16 victory.

Tom Assal was named man-of-the-match for a solid performance on his return to the side.

Next up for Hammers is a tough test against Honourable Artillery Co. (HAC) at Hurlingham Park this Saturday, followed by a home Intermediate Cup tie with Norfolk-based Diss on January 3.

■ CHELSEA U19s ended their UEFA Youth League group stage in style and secured top spot with a crushing 6-0 home defeat of Sporting Lisbon last week.

Blues needed victory to guarantee first place and a home tie in the one-legged last-16.

A first-half brace from Jeremie Boga and a goal in between from Dominic Solanke gave the hosts a 3-0 lead at the break and they added a further three in the second half. Solanke completed his hat-trick and Charly Musonda added a sixth from a set-piece.

Adi Viveash praised his side for a brilliant performance and some breathtaking attacking play. Speaking to the official Chelsea website, he said: "There was a little bit of pressure on us but it was a fantastic performance. We scored some great goals, showed super movement and scored a couple of excellent free-kicks – but we also demonstrated good discipline as well. Ruben Sammut was excellent in that sense – the speed of the game is different to the under-18s but he learnt about that through the game and was very good.

"We're in the last-16, we're at home and we look forward to the draw now. A big part of today for us as an Academy is Ruben Loftus-Cheek being involved with the first team, as an 18-year-old who has been here for 10 years."

Chelsea: Collins, Christensen, Tomori, Aina, Dasilva (Clarke-Salter 45), Sammut, Colkett, Brown (Wakefield 57), Boga (Sterling 62), Musonda, Solanke.

■ AFTER their 2-0 win at Leeds, Chelsea U18s will continue their defence of the FA Youth Cup against Huddersfield Town.

The holders have been drawn at home, so the game will be played at Aldershot Town FC. Although the exact date has still to be confirmed, all fourth round ties are due to be played by Saturday, January 17.

■ SECOND half strikes from Luca De La Torre, Jerome Opoku and Stephen Humphrys earned Fulham U18s an excellent 3-0 win at Arsenal on Saturday.

It was a brilliant response to the disappointment of last week's 2-1 FA Youth Cup defeat at Crewe.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Friday, December 19
CHELSEA U21 v Borussia Monchengladbach U21, Premier League International Cup (at Staines Town FC), 7.20.

Saturday, December 20
FULHAM U18 v Aston Villa U18, 12.00.
FULHAM v Sheffield Wednesday, 3.00.

Monday, December 22
Stoke City v CHELSEA, 8.00.

Tuesday, December 23
CHELSEA U21 v Norwich City U21, Premier League International Cup (at AFC Wimbledon FC), 2.05.

Blue & White In Brief

■ IN their first league fixture since early November, Chelsea U21s went top of their division with a 3-0 victory against Sunderland at Cobham on Sunday.

An even first half ended goalless before the hosts struck twice in the first 10 minutes of the second period. Ruben Loftus-Cheek - who had made his first team debut against Sporting Lisbon in the Champions League four days earlier - netted from close range and Charly Musonda scored from the edge of the box before John Swift added a third late on with a brilliant individual effort.

Chelsea: Beeney, Dabo, Aina, Christensen, Dasilva, Houghton, Loftus-Cheek, Jeremie Boga (Brown 66); Swift, Solanke, Musonda (Colkett 78).

■ FULHAM U21s suffered a 2-0 home defeat to Spurs on Saturday.

Whites were on the back foot early on before the visitors took the lead in the 33rd minute and sealed victory with 20 minutes left to play.

Fulham: Norman, Baba, Buatu, Burgess, Evans, O'Halloran (Richards 46), Sambou, David, Plumain, Eisfeld, Taggart (Na Bangna 46).

■ VICTORY at West Ham United on Saturday kept Chelsea U18s top of the south section.

Ike Ugbo and a Kyle Scott penalty put Joe Edwards' side in control early on before Djair Parfitt-Williams halved the deficit moments before the interval.

Two goals in five minutes midway through the second period settled the contest as substitute Faiq Bolkiah and Kasey Palmer netted, before Ugbo added his second and the Blues' fifth.

Chelsea: Collins, Tomori, Brady, Clarke-Salter (Bolkiah 66), Grant; Sammut, Scott (Muheim 79), Wakefield (Suljic 75), Ugbo, Palmer.

London Weekly News

SPORT

Thursday, December 18th 2014 ● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

Hull hopes take a dive

TWO home wins for Chelsea in the space of four days was the perfect response to the previous Saturday's unlucky defeat at Newcastle.

The 3-1 Champions League win over Sporting Lisbon in midweek was followed by a scrappy 2-0 Premier League defeat of Hull City last Saturday.

It is a measure of Blues' strength in depth that goalkeeper Petr Cech was recalled for both games in place of the injured Thibaut Courtois.

"You always look for a response when you have a game when you don't win and it is not going the way you want," Cech told Chelsea's official website after beating Hull.

"It was not an easy one but we managed to get a good result out of that and we controlled it for most of the game. Hull didn't have a shot on target.

"It is obviously nice to have the game time and the most pleasant part is to have the clean sheet and three points."

● By LWN reporter **Tony McDonald**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Eden Hazard headed Chelsea in front in the seventh minute following a curling cross from Oscar. And it was Hazard whose probing run and sublime pass set up the second for Diego Costa to notch his12 Premier League goal in the 68th minute.

"We are lucky that we have so many great strikers," said Cech. "Whether it is Loic (Remy), Diego or Didier (Drogba), they keep scoring goals and this is very important. It was a typical striker goal like Diego has been scoring since the start of the season and hopefully he will keep going."

What football purists hope Costa will eradicate from his game is the cynicism that brought him and team-mate Willian a deserved yellow card each for diving. Much to Hull manager Steve Bruce's understandable anger and dismay, referee Chris Foy declined to issue a second yellow card to Chelsea centre-back Gary Cahill for committing the same simulation offence when he launched himself between two opponents in an effort to win a penalty. Impartial observers reckon Foy bottled it.

By then Cahill was perhaps fortunate to still be on the field. His late challenge in the 38th minute, when he scythed down the fast-raiding Aluko, was deemed only worthy of a yellow card by Foy, who sent off Hull's Huddlestone on the hour for planting his studs on the right knee of Felipe Luis.

"The referee shows his intent because he's booked two players for diving and Cahill is lucky to be on the pitch for his first challenge," groaned a bemused Bruce.

"If he hasn't dived there, then I don't know what one is. We all know what he's trying to do – he's trying to get a penalty. The referee is 10 yards away and there's no excuse. We need him to do his job otherwise it will keep rearing its ugly head.

"Unfortunately, from the first minute, Chris Foy had one of those awful afternoons."

Jose Mourinho was in full denial mode afterwards when he claimed in front of TV cameras that "Chelsea is clean".

But the league leaders really ought to be above such unedifying shenanigans.

Petr Cech back on Champions League duty for Chelsea last week. Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

Four days before the victory over Hull, Chelsea rounded off their Champions League group stage with a fourth win in six games to deny Sporting Lisbon qualification for the knockout stages.

Cesc Fabregas – suspended for the Hull game – put the home side ahead early on with a penalty after Filipe Luis had been fouled by Ricardo Esgaio.

Andre Schurrle doubled the lead soon after with a low right-foot strike.

Sporting pulled a goal back in the second half through Jonathan Silva, before John Mikel Obi tapped in from a Fabregas free-kick to secure the win.

With Chelsea already guaranteed qualification as group winners, Mourinho made six changes to the side which lost 2-1 against Newcastle, resting the likes of Willian, John Terry and Eden Hazard.

Among the substitutes was England U19 midfielder Ruben Loftus-Cheek, 18, who made his club debut replacing Fabregas in the closing stages.

Chelsea, still three points clear of Frank Lampard-inspired Manchester City at the top, resume their Premier League programme with a tricky trip to Stoke City on Monday night, before facing West Ham at Stamford Bridge on Boxing Day (12.45pm) and ending the year at Southampton on December 28 (2.05pm). All three games will be shown live on Sky.

A TEAM from the Chelsea Academy won the Christmas Truce Tournament held in Belgium on Sunday to mark the 100th anniversary of the brief ceasefire in World War One when opposing sides in battle came together for an impromptu football match.

Chelsea U12s beat Liverpool in the semi-finals and then defeated Paris St-Germain 1-0 in the final to become the first English team to win the competition, which has been running since 2011.

Last weekend's matches took place in the town of Ypres, where Blues began on Saturday with a group game win against Hearts, before drawing with Schalke and beating Valenciennes from France. The final group game ended in defeat by Anderlecht who finished top, with the junior Blues going forward to the knockout stage as runners-up.

As well as football, there were educational and remembrance aspects to the Tournament with the boys given the opportunity to visit some original German trenches and a new memorial to the Christmas Truce.

They also spent time at a war museum and at the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing in Ypres, where members of the Chelsea team laid wreaths while one of the boys read the 'Ode to Remembrance' in front of more than 1,000 people.

Focus on Craven Cottage

HITMAN HUGO STRIKES

SEE, we told Fulham fans not to overreact or become too downhearted following the 5-0 home drubbing by Watford in their last game at Craven Cottage.

Eight days later Whites travelled to Leeds United and came away with a 1-0 victory to consolidate their mid-table position in the Championship, which continues to produce shocks on a weekly basis.

The in-form Hugo Rodallega slotted his ninth goal of the season, his sixth in eight games, following a neat cut-back from Lasse Vigen Christensen, who showed his talent by using his chest to control the ball and, in the same swift movement, carved Leeds' defence apart before having the vision to pick out his team-mate with a low cross from the byeline.

The creative Christensen set up Rodallega again in the second half but this time the Colombian fired wide of the near post as Fulham looked to hit Leeds on the counter.

"It was a well worked goal," said Fulham boss Kit Symons. "Lasse Christensen did exceptionally well – he's been excellent for us since I've taken over, and Hugo can't stop scoring, and long may that last. He took his goal very well.

"Leeds have got a great home record under Neil Redfearn, so we knew it would be a tough game," continued Symons. "But I was delighted with the performance and, obviously, the result .

"It was very important, especially on the back of getting battered 5-0 at home by Watford the week before. We tightened up and we showed real character. To a man, I thought we were excellent."

Since the walloping by Watford, Fulham have climbed to 14th place in the table.

Symons reflected: "It was disappointing and it hurt, and I'm glad it hurt because it needs to when you suffer defeats like that. But what doesn't kill you makes you stronger.

"We regrouped, worked very well during the week, had a good build up to this game and I thought it was a real solid performance. We deserved to win it in the end."

Fulham were dealt a blow pre-match with the news that Scott Parker would miss the game through illness. Ross McCormack was the man handed the armband and Symons was thrilled to see his stand-in skipper lead Whites to victory against his former club.

"Scott Parker was a big miss," he said. "He's been excellent for us, as a player and as a captain. But when I asked Ross if he wanted the job, he jumped at it and I thought he did very well for us.

"I'm delighted for him coming back here and finishing on the winning side. It was a good day for him and a good day for Fulham."

KIDS FOR A QUID OFFER PROMISES A WHITE CHRISTMAS

THIS Saturday's home game against Sheffield Wednesday provides young fans with a great chance to cheer on the Whites in their penultimate home fixture of 2014 against the side just one place above them.

Tickets in all areas of Craven Cottage for the Championship clash (3.00pm kick-off) will cost just one pound for under-16s when purchased in advance as part of the club's 'Kids For A Quid' initiative.

The same tickets will increase in price to £5 on match day.

Under-14s must be accompanied by an adult.

To pre-order tickets, visit the club's official website at www.fulhamfc.com.

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